

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARAE-00 EB-07 COME-00

FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00 FRB-03 AID-05 /111 W

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P R 071430Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2083

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SA

REF: MEXICO 5594, 6020, 6095

SUMMARY: MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA'S FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS CLIMAXED BY HIS PROMISE TO FIX THE PRICE OF OIL TO OPEC PRICES AND HIS RECOGNITION OF THE PLO. (IN ADDITION THE COMMUNIQUE URGED THE PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND THE RESTORATION OF JERUSALEM TO THE ARABS.) END SUMMARY.

1. MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA MADE HIS MOST FORTHCOMING POLICY STATEMENTS OF HIS CURRENT ROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR IN JIDDA IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL STATEMENTS ON COMMONALITY OF THIRD-WORLD INTERESTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF BROADER ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THE GOM STATED THAT "IT
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SUPPORTS THE POLICIES OF (OPEC) AND THAT...IT SHALL

FIX THE PRICE OF OIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT THE SAID ORGANIZATION FIXES."

2. THE SECOND STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AND THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE IN MEXICO WAS ALSO UNEXPECTED. THIS DEMARCHE BY GOM THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF KING KHALID UNDERSCORES MEXICO'S CONTINUED WOOING OF THE THIRD-WORLD MAIDEN AND ALSO KING KHALID'S STRONG SUPPORT OF THE RELATIVELY MODERATE ARAFAT AS A POLICY OF SAUDI DIPLOMACY.

3. THE CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WAS MADE ONLY INDIRECTLY BY GOM IN THE COMMUNIQUE. WHILE GOM ONLY DIRECTLY STATED THAT IT WAS IN FAVOR OF IMPLEMENTING THE UN RESOLUTIONS TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, KING KHALID UNILATERALLY STRESSED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER JERUSALEM.

4. AN AGREEMENT FOR A MEXICAN TRADE EXPOSITION TO SA WAS ANNOUNCED AS WELL AS CONSULTATIVE PETROLEUM DELEGATION EXCHANGES, BUT NO FINANCIAL AID WAS MENTIONED NOR HAS THE EMBASSY LEARNED OF ANY CASH DEALS.

5. COMMENT: ONE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAID THAT PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP TO THE KINGDOM WAS TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR HIS BID TO SUCCEED UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO CORROBORATE THIS FROM SAUDIS. ON AUGUST 6 DURING A MEETING WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD HM KING KHALID SAID THAT HE FOUND GOM PRESIDENT "A STRONG, SERIOUS, ENERGETIC MAN."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA05556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750273-0152
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750874/aaaacnkh.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 5594, 75 MEXICO 6020, 75 MEXICO 6095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by Izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SA
TAGS: PFOR, SA, MX, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006